

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A polypeptide ~~*Clostridium difficile*~~ lactate dehydrogenase comprising the ~~amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or an amino acid sequence exhibiting at least 70, 80, 90, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, or 99.5% identity with the amino acid sequence of 80%~~ identical to SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the ~~*Clostridium difficile*~~ lactate dehydrogenase ~~as claimed in~~ polypeptide of claim 1.
3. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2 according to claim 2, wherein the isolated nucleic acid comprises ~~comprising the nucleotide sequence of the~~ nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
4. (Currently amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2.
5. (Currently amended) A host cell ~~containing~~ comprising the vector of claim 4.
6. (Currently amended) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising ~~the *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1~~ an amino acid sequence with at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:2, the process comprising:
_____ (1) culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions sufficient for the production of said the polypeptide[[,]]; and
_____ (2) recovering said the polypeptide.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A vector according to claim 4~~ The vector of claim 4, wherein said the vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.
8. (Currently amended) ~~A vector according to claim 7~~ The vector of claim 4, wherein the ~~[[said]]~~ isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into the ~~[[said]]~~ vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that the ~~[[a]]~~ polypeptide ~~comprising the *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase~~ may be expressed by a cell transformed with the ~~[[said]]~~ vector.
9. (Currently amended) ~~A vector according to claim 8~~ The vector of claim 4, wherein said the isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.
10. (Currently amended) An antibody or ~~an~~ antigen-binding fragment thereof ~~specific~~ against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase ~~according to claim 1~~ that binds specifically to the polypeptide of claim 1.
11. (Currently amended) ~~An antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof according to claim 10 for use in a~~ A method of treating a treatment or diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* infection in a patient the human or animal body, comprising administering to the patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of the antibody or fragment thereof of claim 10.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A composition ~~medicament~~, comprising ~~a therapeutically effective quantity of an antibiotic and an~~ the antibody or ~~[[an]]~~ antigen-binding fragment thereof ~~specific against a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1~~ of claim 10.
14. (Currently amended) A method of treating a ~~A medicament according to claim 13 for use in a method of treatment or diagnosis of *Clostridium difficile* infection in a subject~~ the human or animal body, comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of the composition of claim 13.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) ~~A method of treatment according to~~ The method of claim [[16]] 11, further comprising ~~the step of administering to a patient a therapeutically effective quantity of an~~ antibiotic.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A method for detecting the presence of A diagnostic test method for detecting the presence in a sample of a *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1 in a sample, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

- ~~_____~~ i) contacting said the sample with ~~an~~ the antibody or ~~an antigen-binding~~ fragment thereof of claim 10 specific against said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase;
- ii) detecting ~~[[any]]~~ an antibody-antigen binding reaction; and
- iii) correlating the results of detection step (ii) with the presence of ~~said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase in said~~ the sample.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A method for detecting the presence of an A diagnostic test method for detecting the presence in a sample of antibody specific against a or antigen binding fragment that binds specifically to *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1 in a sample, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

- i) contacting said the sample with ~~said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase the composition of claim 1;~~
- ii) detecting any antibody-antigen binding reaction; and
- iii) correlating the results of detection step (ii) with the presence of antibody specific against ~~said *Clostridium difficile* lactate dehydrogenase in said~~ the sample.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A diagnostic test method according to~~ The method of claim 18, wherein the sample being is a sample from a patient.

21. (Currently amended) A diagnostic test kit, comprising one or more of: for performing a diagnostic test method according to claim 18
the antibody or fragment of claim 10, or the composition of claim 1, or both; and
instructions for use.
22. (Currently amended) ~~A pharmaceutical pack~~ A kit for treating the treatment of a
Clostridium difficile infection in a patient, comprising:
a therapeutically effective quantity of an antibiotic;
and an antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof specific against a *Clostridium*
difficile lactate dehydrogenase according to claim 1 the antibody or fragment thereof of claim 10;
and
instructions for use.
23. (Currently amended) ~~A medicament, method of manufacture, method of treatment,~~
~~diagnostic test method, diagnostic test kit, or pharmaceutical pack according to claim 13, 16, 18,~~
~~19, 21, or 22, said antibiotic being~~ The medicament of claim 13, wherein the antibiotic is
selected from the group consisting of vancomycin, ramoplanin, teicoplanin, or and
metronidazole.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Currently amended) ~~A medicament, method of manufacture, method of treatment,~~
~~diagnostic test method, diagnostic test kit, or pharmaceutical pack according to claim 13, 16, 18,~~
~~19, 21 or 22, said bacterium~~ The method of claim 15, wherein the *Clostridium difficile* being is
resistant to treatment by said the antibiotic alone.
26. (Currently amended) ~~A diagnostic test method according to~~ The method of claim 19,
wherein the sample being is a sample from a patient.

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27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) A composition comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

29. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a nucleic acid sequence at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.